

From: markdoerr@mac.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Anti-trust settlement

As further evidence that you must not allow this settlement to go forward you only need to look to the anti-trust settlement announced yesterday.

"[11:15 AM CST] Microsoft Scores Another Major Settlement In Its Favor, & One That Might Hurt Apple's Education Sales
by Bryan Chaffin at MacObserver

...From a Forbes.com report:

The proposed settlement will pay for teacher training, technical support, refurbished computers and copies of Microsoft's most popular software, such as Windows and Office, at more than 12,500 schools, Microsoft said. Microsoft admits no wrongdoing in the settlement, as is standard in agreements of this kind.

The company said it will take a pretax charge of about \$550 million in the current quarter ending Dec. 31 to cover the proposed settlement. After taxes, the company expects to incur a charge of about \$375 million, or between 6 cents and 7 cents per share.

...From a TheStreet.com report:

"Under this settlement, they're giving away their software, which has zero marginal cost for them, and putting it in poor schools that never would have bought it anyway," says Ed Black, head of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, an anti-Microsoft trade group. "They're like the guy on the street that's got people watching the pea in the pod: Microsoft's got everyone watching, but they just put the pea in their pocket and walked to the bank."

"It's not a punishment, it's a reward," says Eugene Crew, an antitrust attorney at Townsend & Townsend & Crew in San Francisco who has been working on the California portion of suits. He says that his firm was taken aback by the proposed settlement, which it first read about in media reports Tuesday morning. He says he'll ask U.S. District Court Judge J. Frederick Motz not to accept the proposed settlement during a hearing set for next Tuesday, or at least release his clients from being covered by it. "

It's obvious that monopolistic actions can be used as tactics and that the US Dept. of Justice can be used as an ad hoc sales force. I'm hoping that I might be able to come up with a way to get them to force Hollywood studios to cast me in their movies or TV shows. It'd make my job as an actor so much easier.